

Washington State Cherry Harvest Bulletin**June 16, 2010**

This cherry harvest bulletin is **informational only** and **is not** intended for recruitment.

The harvest of early season varieties is expected to begin between June 10 and June 12. The earliest Bing harvest is expected to begin between June 16 and June 18.

Peak harvest is expected to begin about June 26 and extend through the first week of August. Plantings of later-maturing cherry varieties and plantings at higher elevations extend the peak harvest season. Limited cherry harvest will continue into mid- to late August.

The anticipated start dates are associated with the fruit producing areas located in:

- North-Central Washington (Chelan, Okanogan, Grant and Douglas counties)
- South-Central Washington (Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat and Skamania counties)
- Southeast Washington (Walla Walla, Benton and Franklin counties)

This year's Washington total sweet cherry crop is estimated at 151,858 tons, compared to the record crop of 196,198 tons picked last year, the 147,636 tons picked in 2007 and the 162,923 tons picked in 2006.

The Tent Housing Program provided by growers for cherry harvesters continues to be available in some areas. The State Cherry Housing facility located in Monitor will be available again this year. The Vista del Rio, Sage Bluff and Columbia Pointe farm worker housing facilities in and around the Wenatchee area will be open for the 2010 cherry harvest season. Overall housing availability is improving, but still remains scarce in some areas.

Workers planning to work in Washington's cherry harvest are encouraged to contact one of the WorkSource offices listed below or visit www.wa.gov/esd/farmworkers/farm_jobs.htm on the Internet before traveling to Washington.

Columbia Gorge	800-511-7388
Moses Lake	509-766-2559
Sunnyside	509-836-5405
Tri-Cities	509-734-5900
Wenatchee	800-858-2716
Yakima	509-574-0105
Walla Walla	509-527-4393
Okanogan	800-887-8057
Statewide Information	800-339-3981